

# Native-born and Foreign-born Perspectives

## Feeling Canadian

*Foreign-born citizens are as likely as native-born to feel fully like a good citizen of the country, and even prouder to be Canadian.*

**FEELING FULLY LIKE A CITIZEN.** Do Canadians consider themselves “good citizens who are active members of their community, province, territory or country?” When provided with this definition, most (76%) Canadians say they feel fully like a good citizen of Canada. Two in ten (20%) feel they are partly a good citizen while two percent feel they are not.

The view that they are fully a good citizen is equally true for both native-born (78%) and foreign-born (75%) citizens. By comparison, 45 percent of permanent residents feel fully like a good citizen. Across the country, residents of the Prairie provinces are most likely to feel like good citizens. This view also increases with age and household income. Anglophones and francophones are equally likely to feel like good citizens.

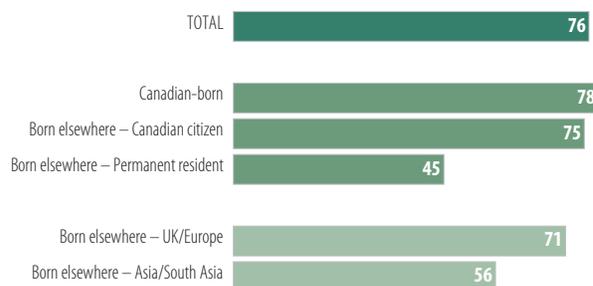
**PRIDE IN CANADA.** Canadians express great pride in their country. A strong majority of citizens (82%) feel very proud to be Canadian, and notably this is more widely felt among foreign-born citizens (88%) than native-born (81%). Likewise, most permanent residents (75%) are very proud to be a resident of Canada.

There is also strong pride expressed by all in being a resident of their province (72%) and a member of their local community (69%), both of which are equally the case for native-born and foreign-born citizens. By comparison, six in ten (58%) foreign-born Canadians describe themselves as very proud of being from their country of birth.

Among citizens, pride in being Canadian increases with age, and is higher among those in the lowest income bracket. It is lowest in Quebec (53%), where a larger proportion (69%) report strong pride in being a resident of their province.

## Do you feel like you are fully a citizen\*?

By citizen group and place of birth

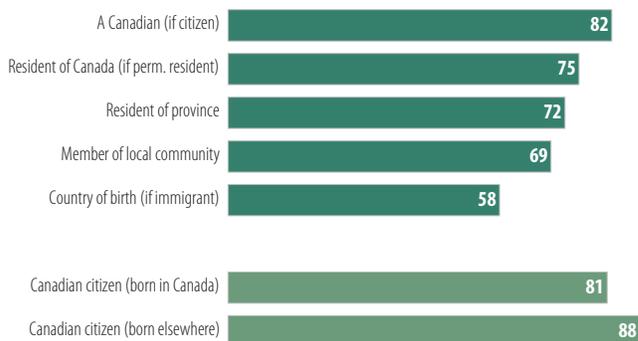


\* Active member of one’s community, province/territory or country

Q.4

*For the next few questions, we’d like to use a broader definition of citizenship than the legal status given by the government. This broader definition of a citizen is someone who is an active member of their community, province, territory or country. Thinking about this definition of citizenship, do you feel like you are fully, partly or not a citizen?*

## Very proud to be ...



Q.17

*Would you say you are very, somewhat, not very, or not at all proud to be each of the following ...?*

**WHY PROUD OF CANADA.** What is it about Canada that gives people the greatest sense of pride? First and foremost, Canadians say (unprompted) it is because Canada is free and democratic (28%). Other reasons include that Canadians are humanitarians and caring people (11%), Canada is respected by other countries (8%), the quality of life (7%) and sense of tolerance (6%).

Native-born and foreign-born individuals share similar reasons for their pride in Canada, although foreign-born are more likely to mention the quality of life here.

The reasons given for pride in Canada are largely similar across the population, although older Canadians (60 and up) and those with less education are more likely to attribute it to a free and democratic Canada.

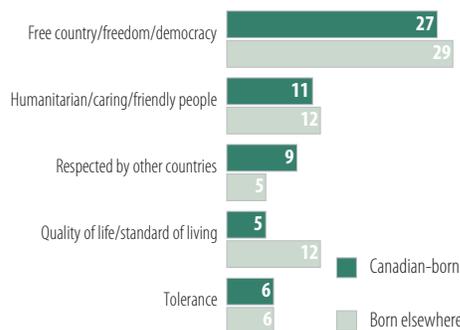
**WHY LEAST PROUD OF CANADA.** And what makes people *least* proud about Canada? The most common complaint (unprompted) is about politicians and the state of government leadership (20%). Other concerns include Canada’s environmental record (6%), treatment of Aboriginal peoples (5%), presence of racism and discrimination (4%), and a lack of assertiveness internationally (4%).

Native-born individuals are more likely than foreign-born to say they are least proud of Canada’s politicians, while other concerns raised are similar for the two groups.

The state of government leadership is the most common concern raised in all provinces and population segments, but is particularly prominent in Quebec, among men and those with a university education. Concerns about Canada’s environmental record are also more common in Quebec, among Canadians under 60, and those with more education and higher incomes.

## Greatest sense of pride in being Canadian/Canadian resident

Top 5 mentions By place of birth

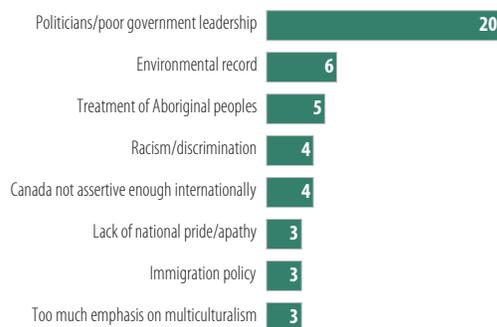


Q.18

What is it that gives you the greatest sense of pride about being Canadian/a resident of Canada?

Subsample: Those who are very or somewhat proud to be Canadian/xa resident of Canada

## What makes you *least* proud about being Canadian?



Q.19

[If Canadian-born/legal citizen] And what, if anything, makes you least proud about being Canadian?

[If not legal citizen] And what, if anything, makes you least proud about being a resident of Canada?

## Becoming a citizen

*Most foreign-born citizens became citizens out of a commitment to be Canadian. The point at which they begin to feel like a good citizen varies, but a lack of English or French makes this process more challenging.*

### REASONS FOR BECOMING A CANADIAN CITIZEN.

Why do newcomers to Canada choose to become legal citizens? When asked (unprompted), Canadian citizens born outside of the country suggest a number of reasons. The most common reasons are because they want to stay permanently (26%) or to confirm that they belong here (17%). For some, parents made the choice when they were young (25%). Other reasons for becoming a legal citizen are because their family lives in Canada (10%), to vote (9%) or to qualify for a passport (6%), or so their children will be Canadian (6%).

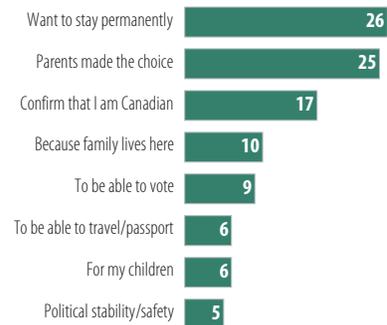
Reasons for becoming a legal citizen are largely consistent across the population of foreign-born Canadians, with the exception that those born in Europe, and those who have lived here for 10 years or longer are more apt to say their parents made the decision for them.

**CITIZENSHIP PROCESS.** How do foreign-born Canadians view the process they went through to become legal citizens? Most foreign-born citizens say the official citizenship process was not problematic. Eight in ten say it was very (59%) or somewhat (22%) easy, compared to one in ten who say it was somewhat (8%) or very (4%) difficult.

However, this process was not the same for everyone. Immigrants from Europe report an easier time than do those coming from Asia or the Middle East (62% and 48%, respectively, say the citizenship process was very easy). Similarly, those with English for French as their mother tongue (70%) find the process easier than do allophones (51%).

## Main reason you became a legal citizen in Canada?

### Top mentions

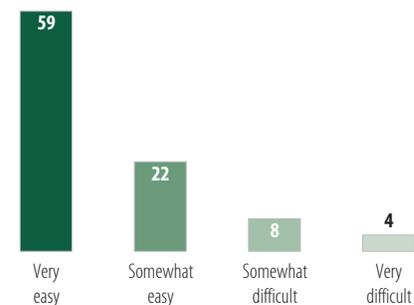


Q.22

*What was the main reason you decided to become a legal citizen of Canada?*

*Subsample: Those who are legal citizens born outside Canada*

## Process of becoming a citizen was ...



Q.23

*Was the process of becoming a citizen very easy, somewhat easy, somewhat difficult or very difficult for you?*

*Subsample: Those who are legal citizens born outside Canada*

**POINT AT WHICH FEEL LIKE A CITIZEN.** Aside from the official process of becoming a citizen, when do immigrants begin to *feel* like they are a good citizen in Canada, in terms of being an active member of their community, province, territory or country? This feeling happened at different stages, but notably one in four (25%) say they started to feel like a citizen the moment they arrived in the country.

Some say they felt like a citizen at specific milestones such as at their citizenship ceremony (16%), when they first voted (9%) or when they got their first passport (5%). Others refer to times when they became involved in Canadian society, such as finding a job (11%), started learning about Canadian culture (5%), becoming comfortable in English or French (4%), or becoming involved in the community (4%).

Notably, foreign-born Canadians with English as their mother tongue are more likely than allophones (i.e., whose mother tongue is neither English nor French) to feel like a Canadian upon arrival (32% vs. 22%). Immigrants born in Asia or the Middle East, and allophones are more apt than other immigrants to say they began to feel like a citizen when they first voted.

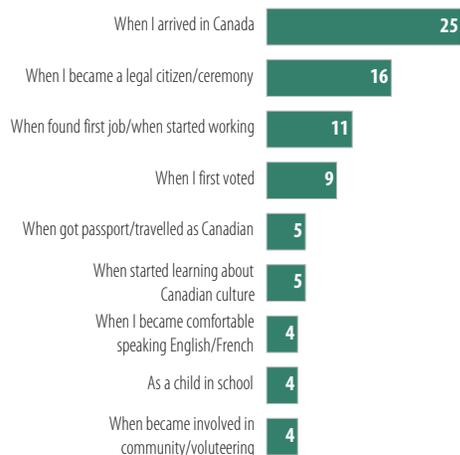
**OBSTACLES TO FEELING LIKE A CITIZEN.** Aside from their own experiences, what obstacles do foreign-born citizens believe *other* newcomers face in feeling fully like a citizen in Canada? Among those identified, first and foremost are language barriers (40%). Other barriers include physical isolation or difficulty getting around (20%), culture shock (19%), prejudice and discrimination (14%), and not feeling welcome or included (10%).

There is a relationship between perceptions of the obstacles facing newcomers and age. Language barriers are more commonly mentioned by younger immigrants (under 45). Those under 30 are also more likely than others to identify culture shock as a barrier, and least likely to mention prejudice or discrimination.

Physical isolation is more commonly cited as a barrier to feeling like a citizen by immigrants born in Asia or the Middle East, while mentions of prejudice/discrimination are higher among immigrants from Europe.

## At what point did you start feeling like a good citizen of Canada?

### Top mentions

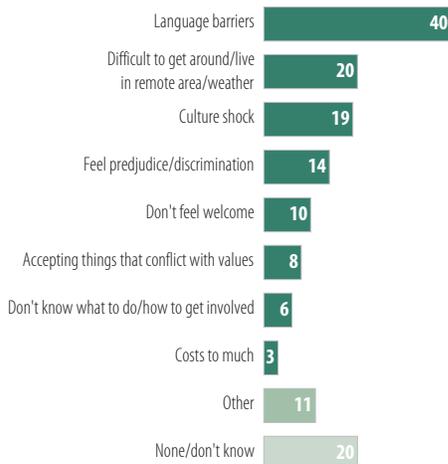


Q.24

*Thinking again of the broader definition of a citizen, which is being an active member of a community, province, territory or country, at what point did you start to feel like a citizen in Canada?*

*Subsample: Those who are legal citizens born outside Canada and who feel like a citizen*

## Obstacles others face in feeling like a citizen



Q.25

*Aside from your own personal experience, what obstacles, if any, do you think other newcomers face in feeling fully like a citizen in Canada? Anything else?*

*Subsample: Those who are legal citizens born outside Canada*